

CANDIDATE PROFILES

(Election of ONE Director)



Disclaimer: The Returning Officer of B+LNZ accepts no responsibility for the content or accuracy contained in the statements as supplied by the candidates.

Simon DAVIES



With my wife Joanna, and two children, I farm a 8000su sheep and beef farm east of Milton. We moved to the Clutha region from Taranaki 15 years ago and now call Toko Mouth home.

I appreciate first-hand the commitment, constraints and sacrifice required to achieve long term goals, in this sector.

Transparency, integrity, honesty and accountability are incredibly important values to me, alongside the hard work and dedication to make real change happen. I will question and am prepared to fight for what I believe in.

A passionate supporter of pastoral farming, I speak my mind and am not afraid to rock the boat. As a former provincial Federated Farmers President, I understand advocacy and believe the NZ Agricultural sector needs to have the ear of central government. As a hands-on farmer, I appreciate the implications of impractical legislation and the need for improved commercial returns on farm, for our sector and provincial New Zealand.

Governance Experience

- Clutha Vets director current
- Telford Farm Board member current
- Otago South Rivercare (chair) current
- Clutha Development (chair) 2023-2025
- Clutha Development executive 2016-2025
- Otago Federated Farmers President 2017-2020
- Beef and Lamb Farmer Council 2016-2021
- Otago Regional Skills and Leadership group (govt appointed) 2019-2021

Key Strengths

- Extensive experience in policy, advocacy and governance roles
- Communicate well with different stakeholders
- Understanding the implications of decisions on levy payers
- Pragmatic in finding solutions
- Questioner

I will be pushing Beef and Lamb for greater impact in the following areas:

- Drive better commercial outcomes, both inside and outside the farm gate.
- Improving human resource skills in the sector to help in labour recruitment and retention.
- Continued collaboration within the sector to have “one voice” in the policy and advocacy space

Glen McDONALD



B.Com (Hons)

I farm 4,500 stock units on 1,100 hectares at Roxburgh with my wife and our two teenage kids. I believe in people growing their wealth from farming their land. When farmers are financially strong, they have true choices – whether that's building a legacy, pursuing growth, environmental improvements, or simply farming the way they're passionate about. I love sheep and sheep farming and believe in the future of our industry.

I bring over 10 years of governance experience in my community, including service as a BLNZ Associate Director and extensive governance training. As a former accountant, who went on to purchase and run a farm, I pair practical on-farm knowledge with strong financial literacy and business discipline.

Down here in the south, we deal with a unique climate and set of challenges. We need someone at the BLNZ Board table who understands this region. There's been a real lack of awareness about the role winter cropping plays in our systems. I'm not afraid to speak up and push back against policies that don't reflect the reality of southern farming.

Looking ahead, forecasts say \$150 billion worth of farms will change hands over the next decade. I'm passionate about attracting young talent to the industry. BLNZ's Future Farmers programme is a great step in helping young people understand the real opportunities – financial and lifestyle – that farming offers.

Around 60% of our beef exports come from dairy herds, and dairy farmers pay a big part of the levy. That contribution needs to be recognised. I'm supportive of the Beef Progeny Programme and want to see the value chain better aligned so all farmers can get real returns off beef genetics.

I'd genuinely appreciate your support so I can represent you, your farm, and our South Island perspective on the BLNZ Board.

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PLEASE TURN OVER >>

Matt McRAE

My wife Natalie and I farm at Mokoreta, Southland, with our three children Jacob, Maggie and Duncan. My brother and I run a 970ha sheep, beef and dairy support business, alongside our sheep stud. Additionally, we manage a neighbouring 1,200 ha property for a corporate owner.



I currently serve as Chair of the Southern South Island Farmer Council, which has strengthened my understanding of B+LNZ's structures and strategy. It has allowed me to engage with farmers to develop extension across Otago/Southland and gain an understanding of all aspects of the organisation, including research and innovation, genetics, trade, and economic service data.

I am involved in various community and governance roles, including primary school board of trustees. I am not a serial director, although I have completed several professional development courses, including an Institute of Directors course and a Southland Business Chamber course. I am extremely passionate about our industry, and it is my ambition to improve the red-meat sector for generations to come.

Communication, accountability, and transparency are important qualities. I would like to see a greater level of engagement with levy payers. Farmers must be heard, and their feedback must shape decisions. With an upcoming referendum, it is essential to have a highly engaged organisation that earns a strong mandate from its levy payers.

I value open dialogue, encourage practical solutions and have a collaborative leadership style. Advocating firmly for outcomes that are practical, science-based, and strengthen the viability of our sector. We need a director who has a strong connection to our region, is an active farmer with debt, experienced in governance, has a good knowledge of how B+LNZ operates, and is prepared to work hard on behalf of all levy payers.

I would value your support and the opportunity to serve as your director.

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